Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Applicant has substituted the serial numbers of the Related Patent Applications with the Attorney Docket Numbers.

The Examiner stated the following in page 2 of the Office Action: *"As per claim 1, Alden discloses an incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises (abstract); a data base that stores unique information affixed to mail (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9); a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained on the mail after the mail has been delivered to the recipient (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9); and a data center that receives information stored by the data base and the recipient's units to identify the mailer to the recipient and assess the possibility of the presence of life-harming material in the mail (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9)".*

Alden's abstract reads as follows:

> "In a preferred embodiment, a network-based hardcopy mail scanning system to enable a mail recipient to view virtual images of their mail prior to physically receiving said mail. Unwanted mail from unknown origins can be discarded remotely by the mail recipient prior to actually receiving or touching the hardcopy mail. Thus the mail recipient is insulated from contact with potential letter bombs, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists through the US or international postal systems. The process includes a means to digitize an image of hardcopy mail intended for a mail recipient, a database to store the digitized image, a scanning service computer connected to said database. Said scanning service computer and a mail recipient computer are interconnected by a computer network. The scanning service computer communicates images of hardcopy mail (addressed for delivery to the mail recipient to the mail recipient computer via the computer network. The mail recipient can elect to accept mail for receipt or to reject mail which is then destroyed. By virtually selecting what mail to accept and discarding the rest, the recipient can discard mail from unknown origins prior to ever physically handling it."

Paragraph 17 of Alden reads as follows:

"[0017] **FIG. 3** is a flowchart describing hardcopy mail interception at the home mailbox of the present invention. The present invention provides a mail scan service **49**. In this illustration, the mail scan service is intercepting the intended recipient's **55** mail at his home mail box **47**. The **49** scans (records a digital image) of the mail which it provides electronically over the internet, thereby enabling the intended recipient to virtually view the mail prior to receiving it. Internet communication channel between **49** and **55** is indicated by a dotted line. The **55** elects to accept or to reject each specific mail article. Rejected mail **51** is discarded by the **49** and accepted mail **53** is routed to the user by the **49**. Thus the user of the scanning service receives and personally handles only the mail that he wishes to and discards the unwanted mail without ever having handled it. This reduces potential for exposure to explosives, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists."

Alden does not disclose a postal indicia. In fact, in Fig. 9, Alden shows what appears to be a cancelled 34 cents U.S. postage stamp in the upper right hand side of the image of envelope 175. Thus, Alden does not disclose or anticipate a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient.

Furthermore, Alden does not disclose or anticipate added claim 20 wherein the recipient's units comprise personal computer meters.

Furthermore, Alden does not disclose or anticipate added claim 21 wherein the unique information contained in the postal indicia includes a security code, and added claim 22 wherein the security code is obtained from a recipient address field on the mail and information contained in a postage meter that affixed the postal indicia to the mail.

Claim 3 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden and further in view of Bobrow, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0079371).

The Examiner stated in page 5 of the office action the following: *"Bobrow et al. discloses a mailer's unit that communicates with the data base and stores in the data*

*base the **time** and **date** that the postal indicia was affixed to the mail (storing time and date) (paragraph 133, fig's. [sic] 2 & 4)."*

Paragraph 133 of Bobrow et al. reads as follows:

"[0133]   Swipes **1114, 1116,** and **1118** specify the date and time of the event. Swipes **1110, 1112, 1122,** and **1124** serve to annotate the event. The address is set forth in swipes **1120, 1122,** and **1124** – this information can remain part of the annotation or can be extracted by the system as described below. Note that this further information can be displayed in a hierarchical fashion, concealing details until needed.   Moreover, in one embodiment of the invention, the entire announcement of **FIG. 11** (or at least an additional portion thereof) is scanned and stored as an image in the database **310 (FIG. 3)** in addition to the information extracted and used as an event annotation as set forth above. This approach has the advantage that additional information in the document (such as the bride's name, for example) is accessible and can be made available, if necessary, even if it is not expected to be needed at the time the key data items are extracted."

Neither Alden nor Bobrow discloses or anticipates a postal indicia. Figs. 2 and 4 of Bobrow do not show a postal indicia.

Claim 5 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden, and further in view of Rangan et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0034055.

Paragraph 91 of Rangan et al. reads as follows:

"[0091] In an alternative embodiment gatherer **67** may be implemented as a client application installed on a user's PC. In this embodiment, a user would not be required to supply log-in or password codes. Summarization scripts may be sent to the client software and templates may be automatically created with the appropriate scripts using log-in and password information encrypted and stored locally on the user's machine."

Neither Alden nor Rangan, taken separately or together, discloses a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient.

Claim 19 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden in view of Brookner (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,742).

Brookner discloses the following in lines 27-39 of col. 2:

> "In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a greatly improved system providing early warning preemptive postal equ8ipment replacement. According to the invention, it is provided that selected performance parameters of the postal equipment are monitored and compared against predetermined operational boundaries. The monitoring gives an indication of the overall system performance. If the system performance goes outside of operational boundaries, or changes significantly, replacement can be scheduled with minimal inconvenience to the customer. Data from the old meter can then be orderly transferred to the replacement meter."

Neither Alden nor Brookner, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the system claimed in claim 1, namely, a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient.

Claim 20 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden and further in view of Ananda (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,731).

Ananda discloses the following in the abstract:

> "The present invention is a system for providing secure access and execution of application software stored on a first computer by a second computer using a communication device while a communication link is maintained between the first and second computers. More specifically, the present invention is a secure software rental system. The system enables a user in a remote location using a personal computer and a modem to connect to a central rental facility, transfer application software from the central rental facility to the remote computer, and execute the application software on the remote computer while electronically connected to the central rental facility. When the communication link between the central rental facility and the remote computer is interrupted or terminated, the application software no longer executes on the remote computer. The application software stored on the central rental facility is integrated with the header software to provide a security feature of the present invention. the use of header

software allows the user to execute the application software only while the user is electronically connected to the central rental facility continuously. In one embodiment, the rental software is an on-line postage metering program. In this embodiment, a user computer and a user printer, electronically connected to the PSD server and the USPS computer, constitute an on-line electronic postage meter. The on-line electronic postage meter allows a remote user to print postage using a local printer in a secure manner. A printed postage appears as a two-dimensional bar-code that includes a unique serial number, mail delivery point information, and the amount of postage.

Neither Alden nor Anada, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the system claimed in claim 1, namely, a data base that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail; a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique information contained in the postal indicia after the mail has been delivered to the recipient.

Claims 1-20 have been provisionally rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over copending Application Nos. 10/015309 and 10/015469. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Claim 1 has been provisionally rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over copending Application Nos. 09/683,380 and 09/683,381. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Claim 1 has been rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 6,754,366. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.
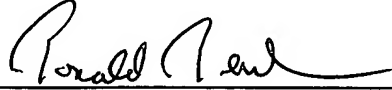
In view of the above, claims 1-20 and new claims 21 and 22 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

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